

OPINION 1603

Saccopharynx* Mitchill, 1824 (Osteichthyes, Saccopharyngiformes): conserved*Ruling**

(1) Under the plenary powers it is hereby ruled that *Saccopharynx* Mitchill, 1824 is deemed to be the name of a then new nominal genus, and not a replacement name for *Stylephorus* Shaw, 1791.

(2) Under the plenary powers all previous type fixations for *Saccopharynx* Mitchill, 1824 are hereby set aside and *Saccopharynx flagellum* Cuvier, 1829 is hereby designated as the type species.

(3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

(a) *Saccopharynx* Mitchill, 1824 (gender: masculine), type species by designation in (2) above *Saccopharynx flagellum* Cuvier, 1829 (a junior subjective synonym of *Ophiognathus ampullaceus* Harwood, 1827);

(b) *Stylephorus* Shaw, 1791 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Stylephorus chordatus* Shaw, 1791.

(4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *ampullaceus* Harwood, 1827, as published in the binomen *Ophiognathus ampullaceus* (senior subjective synonym of the specific name of *Saccopharynx flagellum* Cuvier, 1829, the type species of *Saccopharynx* Mitchill, 1824);

(b) *chordatus* Shaw, 1791, as published in the binomen *Stylephorus chordatus* (specific name of the type species of *Stylephorus* Shaw, 1791).

(5) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:

(a) SACCOPHARYNGIDAE Bleeker, 1859 (type genus *Saccopharynx* Mitchill, 1824);

(b) STYLEPHORIDAE Swainson, 1839 (type genus *Stylephorus* Shaw, 1791).

History of Case 2625

An application for the conservation of *Saccopharynx* Mitchill, 1824 was received from Drs W.N. Eschmeyer (*California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.*) & C.R. Robins (*University of Miami, Miami, Florida, U.S.A.*) on 14 September 1987 and published in BZN 45: 204–206 (September 1988). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. No comments were received.

Saccopharynx Mitchill, 1824 was, strictly speaking, originally a replacement name for *Stylephorus* Shaw, 1791 (cf. para. 2 of the application), although treated by all subsequent workers as a new nominal genus. The name *chordatus* cannot be used for Mitchill's *Saccopharynx* species under Article 49 of the Code and it never has been so used. Cuvier (1829, p. 355; para. 4 of the application) described the genus jointly under the two names *Saccopharynx* Mitchill and *Ophiognathus* Harwood. He referred to 'Le *Saccopharynx flagellum* de Mitchill' (sic), without mentioning *chordatus* for which (in its *Saccopharynx* sense) *flagellum* was evidently a replacement name. Of the species *Ophiognathus ampullaceus* Harwood, 1827 Cuvier wrote that while it might not be identical to *flagellum* it 'manifestement' belonged to the same genus. It is clear

that *Saccopharynx flagellum* Cuvier, 1829 is the appropriate nominal type species. Subsequent workers have synonymised *flagellum* and *ampullaceus* and the latter name is treated as valid. As first submitted the application by Drs Eschmeyer & Robins did not include the suppression of *ampullaceus*, and proposals (1) and (6) on BZN 45: 205 were withdrawn. Proposal (2) was also amended, and the proposals were given in their amended form on the voting papers. The amended proposals achieve the stabilisation of existing usage and the purpose of the published application.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1989 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 45: 205, amended as noted above. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1990 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 25: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Minelli, Mroczkowski, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 1: Lehtinen.

No vote was received from Starobogatov.

Martins de Souza abstained.

Lehtinen considered that the name *Ophiognathus* Harwood, 1827 should be used instead of *Saccopharynx*, since the latter was published as a replacement name for *Stylephorus* Shaw, 1791.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

ampullaceus, *Ophiognathus*, Harwood, 1827, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, 1827: 51.

chordatus, *Stylephorus*, Shaw, 1791, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, 1: 90.

SACCOPHARYNGIDAE Bleeker, 1859, *Acta Societatis Scientiarum Indo Neerlandicae*, 6: xxxiii.

Saccopharynx Mitchill, 1824, *Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York*, 1(1): 86.

STYLEPHORIDAE Swainson, 1839, *On the natural history and classification of fishes, amphibians and reptiles or monocardian animals*, vol. 2, p. 47.

Stylephorus Shaw, 1791, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, 1: 90.